

Lobbyist Investigators Uncover Pay Dirt Early

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
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WASHINGTON — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's investigation of foreign government lobbyists is still in the preparatory stage, but already it has uncovered highly significant pay dirt.

A preliminary staff study has disclosed that six countries alone have 152 lobbyists — nearly one-third of all the registered "non-diplomatic agents."

As of the first of this month, 411 lobbyists representing 108 nations were registered with the Justice Department. Most of these lobbyists are U.S. citizens in the employ of these foreign countries.

High on the list of the group of six big-lobby nations are Russia and Cuba.

Russia has 28 registered lobbyists, and Cuba 23, of which at least four represent the Communist regime of Dictator Castro, and the other 19, exile and refugee elements.

The four other nations are Japan with 32 lobbyists; Dominican Republic, 26, including three exile groups; France 23; West Germany, 20.

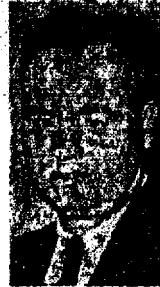
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LOBBYING operations of these six countries will figure prominently in the Foreign Relations Committee's probe. Detailed reports on each nation are being compiled by the committee's staff which has been enlarged for this purpose.

Walter Pincus, former Washington newsman, is directing these studies.

Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman, contemplates holding public hearings in the fall after Congress adjourns.



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Nations with 10 or more registered "non-diplomatic agents" include: Israel, 16; Austria, 12; Haiti, 11; Netherlands, 11; Italy, 10; Nicaragua, 10, including 4 exile groups; Switzerland, 10; Venezuela, 10; Yugoslavia, 10, including 2 exile groups.

Other countries represented by multiple lobbyists are: Nationalist China, 9; Red China, 3; Poland, 9; Hungary, 7, including one exile group; Brazil, 6; South Korea, 3.

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WHILE WHOLLY unmentioned in the Senate discussion of this investigation, one of the targets is the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is Senator Fulbright's intention to dig into the amount of money CIA is lading out to foreign refugee groups with organizations in the U.S. — a number of them very active and politically influential.

Both the State Department and Fulbright have long wanted to probe these operations.

Last February, with State Department backing, Fulbright sought to initiate such an investigation. A major purpose was to block these foreign lobbyists from affecting legislation. But the Foreign Relations Committee balked,

and the move was shelved.

However, Fulbright got the chance to revive it when a swarm of foreign lobbyists recently rewrote the administration's sugar bill in the House. These backstage operations aroused a furor in the Senate, which largely restored the original measure.

Fulbright made the most of this opportunity. The Senate voted a foreign lobbyist probe, and gave him \$50,000 to conduct it.

Most of the exile and refugee organizations are anti-Communist. They concentrate on establishing strong congressional ties. Various intelligence agencies also maintain close connections with them.

It has been reported to Fulbright that CIA contributes around \$100,000 a month to the Cuban Revolutionary Council, composed of refugee groups in the U.S.

Another important organization is the Assembly of Captive European Nations consisting of anti-Communists seeking the liberation of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. The group has numerous strong supporters in and out of Congress.

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ON DIRECT orders of Secretary Rusk, the State Department is cooperating fully with the Senate investigators.

The Justice Department also is actively assisting the investigators. The department is particularly interested in the operations of the numerous registered Soviet lobbyists.

Many of them are employees of Amtorg Trading Corp., that handles all Russian business transactions in the U.S.